



APR 01 200

Image

AF/1754

Attorney Docket No. 09792909-5192

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
ATTENTION: GROUP DIRECTOR

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT AFTER
MAILING DATE OF FINAL ACTION AND
BEFORE PAYMENT OF ISSUE FEE (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d))**

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants request that the references identified on the attached PTO/SB/08a form be made of official record in the above-identified application and considered by the Examiner. Copies of the identified references are enclosed herewith in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98.

04/02/2004 EAREGAY1 00000107 09965273

01 FC:1806

Transmittal of Information Disclosure Statement
Page 2

I. SUBMITTED US PATENT REFERENCES

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Date of Publication</u>
A1	5,910, 382	US	June 8, 1999

II. SUBMITTED FOREIGN PATENT REFERENCES

<u>Document No.</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Date of Publication</u>
B1	WO 01/53198	WIPO	July 26, 2001
B2	JP 09134725	Japan	May 20, 1997
B3	JP 09171827	Japan	June 30, 1997
B4	WO 97/40541	WIPO	October 30, 1997
B5	WO 98/12761	WIPO	March 26, 1998

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. §1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.

II. EXPLANATION OF RELEVANCE

The references A1 and B3 were first cited in a communication from the European Patent Office dated January 22, 2004, in a counterpart foreign application (European Application No. 01123180, filed September 27, 2001) and references B1-B2 and B4-B5 were first cited in a communication from the European Patent Office dated January 27, 2004, in a

Transmittal of Information Disclosure Statement
Page 3

counterpart foreign application (European Application No. 01122752, filed September 21, 2001) not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1). Copies of the European Search Reports are submitted herewith.

III. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1)

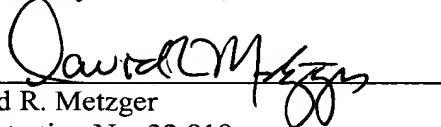
Applicants submit that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in communications from the European Patent Office (i.e. European Search Reports) in counterpart foreign applications not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

Applicants enclose herewith credit card payment form PTO-2038 in the amount of \$180.00 for the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) for submission of an information disclosure statement under §1.97(d)(2).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit overpayments or to charge any deficiency in a required fee to Deposit Account No. 19-3140. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 30, 2004

By: 
David R. Metzger
Registration No. 32,919
SONNENSCHEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL LP
P.O. Box 061080
Wacker Drive Station, Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-1080
(312) 876-8000



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of info unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Institute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document		T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	B1	WO 01/53198	07/26/2001	Valence Technology Inc.		<input type="checkbox"/>
	B2	JP 09134725	05/20/1997	Nippon Telgr & Teleph Corp.	English language abstract only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	B3	JP 09171827	06/30/1997	Sony Corp.	English language abstract only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	B4	WO 97/40541	10/30/1997	Board of Regents The Univ. Texas System		<input type="checkbox"/>
	B5	WO 98/12761	03/26/1998	Valence Technology Inc.		<input type="checkbox"/>

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.